#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

# EASTERN

1947

PALESTINE

FILE No. 3637

CLOSED UNTIL

61921

1978



	A.17	
	Palladine  ENSTERM	E3637/G 2 1 MAY 1947
F 3936 1313/2	Supply of assure to	Palestuian
Mr. Matrieson,		Charles.
Coloniand Office,		
to the Beith		
Morsolut		
april 29th.		
Last Paper.	(Minutee.)	
	M Dane?	<b>A</b>
References.	N. A. Deptober 1/5"	Mr. Beins
		My 5
		*
(Print.)	·	
(How disposed of.)		
61921		
(Action (Index.)		
completed.)		
Next Paper.	-	
A TOMU I SEPUL	a com	
	30471 F.O.P.	

Reference:-

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

76180/47

TOP SECRET

Downing Street, Cost 3

29 April, 1947.

13634

My dear Buth,

I enclose for your information a copy of a saving telegram from the High Commissioner for Palestine on the subject of the supply of arms to the Palestinian Arabs from the neighbouring states. We have not seen this report in the British press but it may have had some currency in America. No doubt His Majesty's Ambassador, Washington, to whom the telegram has been repeated, will be in a position to comment on the reported transfer of American tommy guns to Trac. to Iraq.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Robertson at M.I.5.

Tour en,

J.G.S. BEITH, ESQ.

13. Clear

C.S. 749

#### SAVING

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies,

Date 15th April, 1947.

No. 86 Saving. To

TOP SECRET

I understand that a cable from Richard Mowrer in Jerusalem dated 3rd April addressed to Supernews London says that the diplomatic representatives of the Arab States in Jerusalem, Washington and London have been instructed to investigate the possibilities of buying arms to be passed on ultimately to the Palestine Arabs. The Arab League is said to have taken this decision following a vehement speech by Jamil Mardam Bey, Syrian Prime Minister, urging that since the British were not disarming the Zionists it was the duty of the Arab States to arm the Palestine Arabs. He is reported to have urged first that the League establish an armament fund and secondly that the Arab States instruct their diplomatic representatives in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. to investigate the possibility of arms purchases since it is easier for recognised states to make such purchases, the Palestine Arabs being still under mandatory rule. The League is said to have accepted the second proposal and referred the first to a committee consisting of the Arab foreign ministers and Jamal Husseini. The Iraqi and Palestine delegates strongly supported Mardam's proposals. Mowrer adds that according to a State Department bulletin quoted in the local press the U.S.A. has recently approved the transfer from Britain to Iraq of one thousand American tommy guns.

3. I am sending a copy of this telegram to His Majesty's representatives at Washington, Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, Jeddah and Amman.

#### PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group	Fo
Class	37/
Piecé	61921

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E4610/3637/31 E6318

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

11217

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

| 1 2 3 4 5 6 | Reference:- FO 371 /61021

agree. Unis is a very bridy anstron and we want to Is. Bent avoir publicity, of possible. Oct. 15

BM33

17.4

Agree. But it is not so

agree. But it is not so

in the linken press as of one
in the country which wo be camed
in the country which wo be camed
in the link. Bu furbane hemselves

can do very little is infruence
the from an a whole, & now

for rothing to influence the heft

from who can be relied on to

lives! anything. I have verified

lo make Two small aliverious.

Low Brown 18/10

(1,1-1,1)

DAZS

付, X

8

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on.]

CYPHER/OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM ROLL TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir V. Mallet. No. 1,977.

D: 9.09 p.m. 14th October, 1947.

14th October, 1947. R: 11.30 p.m. 14th October, 1947.

IMMEDIATE RESTRICTED

E 337.

Reported Arab threats to Palestine Jews.

Italian newspapers especially of political left have given considerable prominence to alleged statement of Foreign Office spokesman on October 10th (apparently circulated by Associated Press) that United Kingdom was continuing to arm the Arab countries of the Middle East. This has been twisted to suggest that His Anjesty's Government were deliberately helping the Arabs by bringing military pressure to bear on Palestinian Jewry and were generally backing anti-Zionist activity of the Arab League.

- 2. Italian agency Ansa has since carried on October 11th Reuter report of a further statement by the Foreign Office spokesman to the effect that in the event of conflict between the Jewish and Arab countries His Majesty's Government would consider suspension of supply of arms to Iraq Transjordan and Egypt under relevant treatics of alliance and that in any case His Majesty's Government could bring the matter before United Nations. This second statement however has not received local publicity.
- 3. From the point of view of our local publicity here it would be helpful if a further official statement could be made immediately to the press and preferably carried on R.P.S. diplomatic graphic making it entirely clear that it is not the palicy of His Majesty's Government to arm Arabs against Jews. This might take the form of confirmation and expansion of the second statement referred to above which could then be distributed to Italian press by my Press and Information Department.

**I**II



COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- FO

373 /6105

. . .

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on].

E 9573/3657/31

#### Confidential

Cypher OTP

CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO ROME

No. 2222

18th October 1947. D. 3.15 p.m. 18th October 1947.

TMMEDIATE CONFIDENTIAL

Your telegram No. 1997 [of 14th October: supply of arms to Arab countries by His Majesty's Government].

Both the statements attributed to a "Foreign Office spekesman" by Italian press are inaccurate. My telegram No. 1891 to Cairo (which is being repeated to you) indicates the line being taken by News Department.

2. Hypethetical questions about His Majesty's Government's policy in the event of an Arab-Jewish conflict are embarrassing, since any reply is certain to be distorted. I am anxious to avoid publicity on this issue and I do not, therefore, see any advantage in issuing a further statement to the press as suggested in paragraph 3 of your telegram under reference, particularly as His Majesty's Government's policy cannot be formulated in advance of final United Nations recommendations. If, however, you are questioned on the subject, you may reply on the lines of my telegram No. 1891 to Cairo.

TTTTTT

Registry No. £ 9573/3657/31 Fop Secret. F. O., Secret. Confidential. 194 . Restricted. Despatched M. Draft. ROME Telegram. Jour Relegion no. 1997 [of 14 les 2222 *No.*.... (Date) 16 Repeat to:— Both the statements altributed Paris No. press'are inaccurate. Celegram no. 1891 to CAIRO (which is being referred to you ) indicates Defartment. 2. Hyprothetical questions about En Clair. NOTH Gode. Cypher. Distribution:— Cabinet Copies to:—

of my alegran no. 1891 to CAIRO.

13 H363

18 'X

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- FO 373 /61021

104

1947

PALECTINE

28 NOV

Registry E11217/3637/?/
FROM Garably
No. Paris
Dated Lui balle.

25 Map

28

Lupply of linns for Paliting

Encloses articles from Populaine Franc Fireur

and "aurane" of 23 Mor which provide the

epilogue to the arms during rare referred

a preasure letter in (E 6818/8687/9)

free opinion on same.

Last Paper.

Received in Registry

9573

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Sofy to WIT; (The kings)

huming Who S'1/12 Wastern With. Ih sec.

3/1/2

(Action completed.)

| Action completed.)
| Action (Index.)
| Acti

32003 F.O.P

271 /81091

28 NOV

British Embassy,

Paris.

25th November, 19-7.

Dean James,

"Franc-Tireur" and "Aurore" of the 23rd Hovember, which provide the epilogue to the arms dump case of which I told you in my letter 652/53/47 of the 12th July.

You will see that the people who were arrested all got off very lightly. What is equally interesting is to notice that the Socialist "Populaire", by giving a pruned report of the judge's speech, has made what he said appear to be more favourable to the Jewish terrorists than is shown to be the fact by the longer report contained in the new Communist "Franc-Tireur" (which has Trotskyist leanings).

"L'Aurore" is a Gaullist paper. I do not think this matter was reported in any other papers of importance.

James ever, of ansey

G.A. Crossley.

J.E. Cable Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office, S.W.l.

371 /61921

.

Le Populaire. 23-24/11/47

LE PROCES ZIZAC

### "VOUS AVEZ TOUTE MA SYMPATHIE"

dit le président du tribunal ux trois inculpés

aux trois inculpés

A part le délit pour lequel vous

êtes poursuivis, vous avez toute ma
sympathie. > C'est par ces paroles généreuses que le président Vinçon aborda l'interrogatoire des trois inculpés:
Zizac, Majzner et Ismann, qui comparaissaient hier devant lui sous l'inculpation de détention d'armes. Les falts
remontent à quelques mois. La police
découvrit à Nanterre, dans l'appartement de M. Zizac, neuf caisses d'armes
destinées à la Palestine.

— Je n'ai rien lait contre la France.

— Je n'ai rien lait contre la France, déclara hier M. Majzner, J'ai agi comme vous l'auriez jait vous-même si vous aviez été à ma place !

Mes André Blumel, Schlisselman, Franckel et Me de Moro-Giafferri obtinrent l'indulgence du tribunal : l'acquittement pour M. Zizac, deux mois de prison avec sursis et 1.200 francs d'amende pour M. Ismann, et quatre mois de prison avec sursis, 2.000 francs d'amende pour M. Majzner.

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:- FO 373 /61021

Franc Tireur 23/24 November 1947

#### LE SURSIS AUX DÉTENTEURS D'ARMES POUR LA PALESTINE

Pour La Palestine

Les trois hommes qui comparaissaient hier devant la scizième chambre correctionnélle ne sont pas des malfaiteurs. Cela est si évident que le président Vinçon, qui a requ mission délicate de statuer sur leurs cas, ne laisse pas de leur exprimer sa sympathie.

Meijzner, Isman et Zizac sont ces trois Israélites détenteurs d'armes qu'ils destinaient à la Palestine. Meijzner, le seul détenu, a remis les caisses contenant fusils, grenades, mitraillettes, explosifs à Isman, qui les entreposa chez Zizac. Celui-ci affirme avoir cru que les caisses contenaient des machines à coudre.

Le président. — Si nous portons un très grand intérêt au peuple juif, qui a tant souffert, il n'en est pas moins vrai que je dois tenir compte de la politique internationale. Or nos alliés de Grande-Bretaque ont été chargés de faire la police en Palestine, et ils sont attaqués, blessés par des personnes appartenant à la même organisation que vous...

Le président suspend un instant son discours et ajoute:

— Il aurait mieux valu que ce ne soit pas un tribunal français qui juge cette affaire. Ceci dit, à part la raison pour laquelle vous étes poursuivis, vous avez toute ma sympathie.

Meijzner alors prend la parole:

— Monsieur le président et vous, monsieur le substitut, f'a fait ce que vous avez toute ma sympathie.

Meijzner alors prend la parole:

— Monsieur le président et vous, monsieur le substitut, f'a fait ce que vous avez teté pendant la guerre en Suisse, par exemple, et que vous ayez rencontré un bon Français qui vous prie de l'aider à travailler pour la Résistance, vous auriez fait comme moi...

Le président sourit:

— Non, car je suis respectueux des lois et je l'aurais été de celles du pays qui m'aurait donné asile.

Me de Moro-Giafferri, dans un de son bons élans, rappelle en plaidant que 300.000 Israélites attendent encore, pour sortir des camps, que la civilisation soit victorleuse.

Malgré le réquisitoire du substitut Colomniès, réclamant des peines sévères et fermes, le tribunal a condamné Meijzner à 4 moi

23

Larore 23-24/11/47.

## ÉPILOGUE ANODIN DE L'AFFAIRE DU DÉPOT D'ARMES DE L'IRGOUN

A découverte de neuf caisses d'armes et de munitions chez un ingénieur israélite de Nanterre, l'été dernier, fut annoncée à grand fracas. On parla de complot, de complications internationales, de l'émotion provoquée à la Ligue arabe », de je ne sais quoi encore. Ces armes, destinées à l'Irgoun, prenaient des proportions de bombe

mes. M. Maurice Zizac. Fuis le cainle se fit. Sept inculpés bénéficièrent d'un non-lieu, deux autres furent remis en liberté provisoire... Si bien Les débats furent brefs.

Quarte plaidoiries prolongèrent l'audience

Dix personnes furent arrêtées, à qu'hier, le seul Stanislas Majzner commencer par le détenteur des armes, M. Maurice Zizac. Puis le calme la seizième chambre correctionnelle,

ce fut tout d'abord M' Franckel qui fit l'exposé des droits historiques du peuple d'Israël sur la Palestine et fit une sévère critique de la politique

anglaise.
Plaident ensuite pour Ismann, Me André Blumel fit un affligeant tahadre blumel lit un arrigeant tableau de la situation lamentable de
ce que l'on appelle pudiquement
s « les personnes déplacées ». Lui aussi attaque vivement le « Livre blanc »

de 1939. C. Troisième plaidoirie, celle de M'
Schliesselman pour Zizac dont il demande l'acquittement avec une con-

Enfin, parlant en faveur de Majz-ner, M' de Moro-Giafferi, très en forme, réussit en une courte mais excellente plaidoirie à émouvoir l'au-

fr. er à quatre mois et Ismann à deux mois d'emprisonnement, il leur accorde le ROGER DORSEL.